

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) In a server computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet, a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said server computer system via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number for a channel on which program content is being received by a television from a broadcaster wherein said broadcaster does not provide Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) corresponding to said program content, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box;

b) said server computer system identifying a set of URLs for Web sites associated with said program content using said channel number; and

c) communicating a first subset of one or more of said URLs in said set of URLs from said server computer system to a first computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet and communicating a second subset of one or more of said URLs in said set of URLs from said server computer system to a second computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet, wherein said server computer system uses information in a first user profile and information in a second user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said first subset and said second subset, respectively one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said first and second subsets ~~one or more URLs~~ are respectively stored at said first and second computer systems ~~system~~ separately from said program content such that said first and second subsets ~~one or more URLs~~ are retrievable from said first and second computer systems ~~system~~ without accessing said program content, wherein said receiving, identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television, ~~and~~ Web-based information associated with said first subset ~~set of URLs~~ is retrieved and displayed separately on said first computer system, ~~and Web-based information associated with said second subset of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said second computer system such that different users can view different Web pages while viewing the same said program content on said television.~~

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising ~~9 wherein said step b1) comprises said server computer system:~~

comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said first user profile;

identifying said first ~~[[a]]~~ subset of said set of URLs, said first subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said first subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 10 further comprising:

monitoring URLs selected by a said user associated with said first user profile; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said first user profile.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said first and second subsets ~~one or more URLs~~ are communicated from said server computer system to said first and second computer systems ~~system~~ via said set top box.

14-43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) A server computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet, said server computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory unit coupled to said processor, said memory unit containing instructions that when executed implement a computer-implemented method providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said server computer system via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number for a channel on which program content is being received by a television from a

broadcaster wherein said broadcaster does not provide Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) corresponding to said program content, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box;

b) said server computer system identifying a set of URLs for Web sites associated with said program content using said channel number; and

c) communicating a first subset of one or more of said URLs in said set of URLs from said server computer system to a first computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet and communicating a second subset of one or more of said URLs in said set of URLs from said server computer system to a second computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet, wherein said server computer system uses information in a first user profile and information in a second user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said first subset and said second subset, respectively one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said first and second subsets one or more URLs are respectively stored at said first and second computer systems system separately from said program content such that said first and second subsets one or more URLs are retrievable from said first and second computer systems system without accessing said program content, wherein said receiving, identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television, and Web-based information associated with said first subset set of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said first computer system, and Web-based information associated with said second subset of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said second computer system such that different users can view different Web pages while viewing the same said program content on said television.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Currently Amended) The server computer system of Claim 44 ~~[[45]]~~ wherein ~~said step b)~~ of said method further comprises:
comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said first user profile;
identifying said first ~~[[a]]~~ subset of said set of URLs, said first subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and
storing said first subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

47. (Currently Amended) The server computer system of Claim 46 wherein ~~said step b)~~ of said method further comprises:
monitoring URLs selected by a said user associated with said first user profile; and
adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said first user profile.

48. (Currently Amended) The server computer system of Claim 44 wherein said first and second subsets ~~one or more URLs~~ are communicated from said server computer system to said first and second computer systems ~~system~~ via said set top box.

49. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a server computer system communicatively coupled to the Internet to perform a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said server computer system via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number for a channel on which program content is being received by a television from a broadcaster wherein said broadcaster does not provide Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) corresponding to said program content, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box;

b) said server computer system identifying a set of URLs for Web sites associated with said program content using said channel number; and

c) communicating a first subset of one or more of said URLs in said set of URLs from said server computer system to a first computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet and communicating a second subset of one or more of said URLs in said set of URLs from said server computer system to a second computer system that is communicatively coupled to said server computer system via the Internet, wherein said server computer system uses information in a first user profile and

information in a second user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said first subset and said second subset, respectively one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said first and second subsets one or more URLs are respectively stored at said first and second computer systems system separately from said program content such that said first and second subsets one or more URLs are retrievable from said first and second computer systems system without accessing said program content, wherein said receiving, identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television, and Web-based information associated with said first subset set of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said first computer system, and Web-based information associated with said second subset of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said second computer system such that different users can view different Web pages while viewing the same said program content on said television.

50. (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim ~~49~~ 50 wherein ~~said step b)~~ of said method further comprises:

comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said first user profile;

identifying said first ~~[[a]]~~ subset of said set of URLs, said first subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said first subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 51 wherein ~~said step b)~~ of said method further comprises:

monitoring URLs selected by a said user associated with said first user profile; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said first user profile.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 49 wherein said first and second subsets ~~one or more URLs~~ are communicated from said server computer system to said first and second computer systems ~~system~~ via said set top box.